



## King County

### Metropolitan King County Council

King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue, Suite 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104-3272  
**Tel: 206-477-1000**  
Fax: 206-296-0198  
TTY/TDD: 206-296-1024  
[www.kingcounty.gov/council](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council)

Josh LaBelle  
Executive Director, Seattle Theatre Group  
911 Pine Street  
Seattle, WA 98101

October 1, 2019

Dear Mr. LaBelle,

We celebrate the success and truly value the incredible mission of the Seattle Theater Group. With hundreds of shows connecting thousands and thousands of residents throughout King County every year, we believe STG's values of reducing barriers and deepening connections across all walks of life through art and expression represent what is great about living in our region.

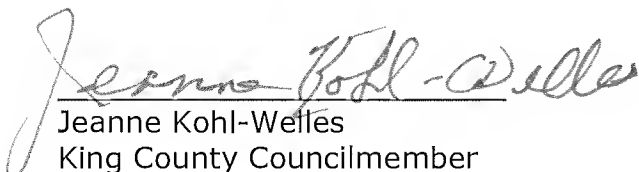
When one conducts an internet search of Al Franken and Seattle right now, two results immediately come to view. The first is an advertisement for his speaking engagement STG is hosting this coming Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. The second is the article where another brave woman has come forward, the ninth, sharing her traumatizing story of being groped by Al Franken at a public event, this time right here in Seattle. We learned of both yesterday.

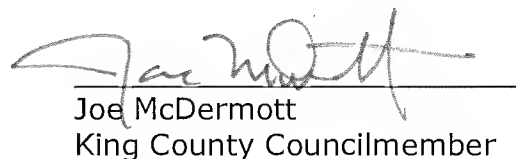
STG, an organization we hold in the highest regard, should not be associated with Al Franken.

An event that supports the comeback tour of a powerful man credibly accused of a growing number of sexual harassment and groping incidents contradicts STG's value statement of "Learning for All" to inspire the greater community through healing. This simply is not creating a safe space.

As we've now learned of a credible accusation of groping against Mr. Franken by a woman who provided public service to our friends, family and neighbors here in Washington State – STG finds itself in the position to unequivocally state that here in King County, we believe women.

Please cancel the Mr. Franken event on Friday.

  
Jeanne Kohl-Welles  
King County Councilmember

  
Joe McDermott  
King County Councilmember